

City Neighborhood Council
www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil
Monday, October 29, 2007
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
West Precinct Conference Room
810 Virginia Street

Chair: Chris Leman (Lake Union), cleman@oo.net, (206) 322-5463
Vice Chair: Pat Murakami (Southeast), president@mountbaker.org
Secretary: Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish), judedw@comcast.net

Draft Agenda

ITEM:

6:00 [Reception to meet and welcome Parks Supt. nominee Tim Gallagher--pot luck donations welcome]
6:30 CNC convenes--introductions, review/approval of agenda, approval/revision of Sept. 24 minutes
6:35 Tim Gallagher, the Mayor's nominee for Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
7:20 City Council President Nick Licata
7:50 Roundtable on District Council successes and challenges
8:15 CNC's committees
Neighborhood Planning Committee--Irene Wall, Chair
Transportation Committee and NSF update--Ref Lindmark, Acting Chair
NMF Review Committee and possible CNC letter--Robin Sizemore, Chair
Budget Committee--Ron Boddie, Chair
Nominating Committee--Judith Edwards, Cheryl Klinker, Dennis Ross, and Andrew Taylor
9:00 Adjourn

ATTACHMENT: Draft minutes from Sept. 24 CNC meeting

UPCOMING:

These events are open to the public. CNC agendas and minutes are available at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil, which also has CNC's 2007 work plan, and contact information for district representatives. If you can't come, your ideas are welcome now!

City Neighborhood Council meets Monday, October 29, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the West Precinct, 810 Virginia Ave. Draft agenda is above. The following CNC meeting is Monday, November 26; suggestions on the agenda are welcome.

CNC Executive Committee meets Monday, Nov. 5, 5-6 p.m. at the Fremont Neighborhood Service Center, 908 N. 34th Street. All are welcome to attend, or if you would like to participate by conference telephone, contact Chris Leman at (206) 322-5463 or cleman@oo.net.

CNC Budget Committee, chaired by Ron Boddie (Central), rjboddie_2@msn.com. Next meeting is being scheduled.

CNC Neighborhood Planning Committee, chaired by Irene Wall (Northwest), iwall@serv.net. Next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. at West Precinct, 810 Virginia St. Topics include finalizing letters that CNC authorized on Sept. 24 on SEPA threshold changes and the Mayor's neighborhood planning proposals; and possible recommendations regarding the multi-family code and industrial neighborhoods.

CNC Transportation Committee, chaired by Ref Lindmark (Northwest District), refl@nwlink.com. Next meeting: Wed., Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m. in room 4086 of the Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth

Avenue.

CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Review Committee, chaired by Robin Sizemore (Northeast), robin.sizemore@clearwire.net. Next meeting is being scheduled.

BACKGROUND:

City budget process. The City Council is now intensively discussing the Mayor's and other proposals for the 2008 budget, and is expected to adopt the budget in late November. CNC's 2006 letter urging timely citizen access to the various budget proposals and analyses is available at: <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Improving%20access%20to%20budget%20processl.pdf>. CNC's June 29, 2007 letter of recommendations on the City budget is available at http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil/6_29_ltr_mayor_2008_budget.pdf. You can also go to <http://seattle.gov/neighborhoodcouncil>, and click on each letter. Or if you don't have a computer, contact DON's Wendy Watson (684-0464) for a copy. CNC budget committee chair Ron Boddie (rjboddie_2@msn.com) and CNC chair Chris Leman (cleman@oo.net) welcome your suggestions on a possible follow-up letter on the budget that CNC could consider at its Oct. 29 meeting. The Mayor's budget proposals are available at <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment>, with public review copies at the Central Library, and seven of the 24 current branch libraries. Paper copies can be purchased at Columbia Center's Zebra Copy for \$72 for the proposed budget and \$95.22 for the proposed Capital Improvements Program. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, with phone comments (to 684-8821) and e-mails (budget@seattle.gov) read aloud that day from 4:30 to 5:30. Nov. 19 is the deadline for written comments, which can be sent to that e-mail address or by U.S. mail to the City Council c/o Theresa Dunbar, Clerk, PO Box 34025, Seattle 98124-4025.

Neighborhood Street Fund. The Sept. 24 CNC meeting authorized a letter commenting on the current status of the Neighborhood Street Fund/Cumulative Reserve Fund, subject to circulation of a draft for possible revisions. That draft is still in progress, and suggestions are welcome, to CNC transportation committee chair Ref Lindmark, refl@nwlinc.com, and CNC chair Chris Leman, cleman@oo.net, (206) 322-5463. As the City Council is now considering possible additional funding and requirements for these funds, the draft letter will be circulated soon for comment and revision.

Neighborhood Matching Fund. City Council resolution 28115 states that the Neighborhood Matching Fund shall be administered "in consultation with the City Neighborhood Council." At its July 10 meeting, CNC's Neighborhood Matching Fund oversight committee, with two DON staff members present, unanimously recommended that CNC restore the system under which the Citywide Review Team, as a group, interviews those who are presenting the application. Thus the Oct. 29 CNC meeting will consider, and possibly take action on, a letter to DON as follows: "The City Neighborhood Council recommends that the Citywide Review Team return to the use of interviews with the applicant representative(s). During most of the history of the Neighborhood Matching Fund, interviews were the format, but were dropped a few years ago in favor of an 'open house' format in which different members of the Citywide Review Team visit the different applicant representative(s) at different locations throughout a larger room. The 'open house' approach has proven more time-consuming for the Citywide Review Team as well as for the applicants, and has introduced the potential for inconsistencies. An interview by all Citywide Review Team members in common is most likely to ensure consistency and fairness in how applicants are treated." For questions, contact CNC NMF Oversight Committee chair Robin Sizemore, robin.sizemore@clearwire.net, and CNC chair Chris Leman, cleman@oo.net, (206) 322-5463.

Video of CNC's candidate forum. On Sept. 21, the City Neighborhood Council held its fifth biennial forum for City Council candidates. Recorded and rebroadcast on the Seattle Channel, it can be viewed at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5550712>. Participating

were all nine candidates, who responded to one another's questions and those posed by a neighborhood panel consisting of Pablo Lambinico (Westwood), Grover Haynes (Lakewood-Seward Park), Catherine Stanford (Downtown); and Cheryl Klinker (Lake City).

Workshop on community-building. District councils are invited to co-sponsor a workshop on community-building, modeled after the January 27 event which featured public officials and citizen speakers, and breakout sessions so that everyone was heard. The January workshop was organized by a committee of district council representatives and their neighborhood service coordinators. Video of the event is at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5010713>. As several district councils have already done, please have your district council be co-sponsor, designate a volunteer to serve on the planning committee, and arrange for your district coordinator to allocate \$100-200 from your district's outreach fund. Coordinator is Judith Edwards (Greater Duwamish District Council, and CNC Secretary) at judedw@comcast.net or 329-8801.

Suggestion that closed meetings of district chairs with DON be suspended. The CNC's meetings are open to the public, publicized, audio-recorded, and the agendas and minutes are approved and published on the City web site. In contrast, the DON director held on June 18 and Sept. 25 closed meetings with the district council chairs (meeting not publicized or open to the public, no input into or adoption of the agenda, recording not allowed, and minutes slow, fragmentary, unapproved, and unavailable on the web site). The CNC chair suggests that closed meetings of the district chairs with the DON director be replaced with the open forum of the City Neighborhood Council. A major purpose of the City Neighborhood Council is to enable open dialogue between the district councils and DON staff, including the director. Closed meetings that parallel that purpose weaken the City Neighborhood Council and the district councils alike. (In fact, the Sept. 25 closed meeting was one day after the Sept. 24 CNC meeting.) DON can best support and engage CNC and the district councils if it suspends closed meetings with the district chairs, and brings its questions and proposals openly to the City Neighborhood Council, and/or the district councils. Already about half of the district council chairs are their district representative to CNC, and in cases where a district council has designated an alternate to attend CNC, the district chairs sometimes come, and are always welcome. City Council resolution 28948 states that City Neighborhood Council membership shall consist of "each district council chair or a designated alternate." (An advantage of allowing alternates is to ensure maximum district council representation, and attendance at CNC this year has been excellent; in contrast, there were only four districts represented at the director's Sept. 25 closed meeting.) The DON director has had since January from the CNC chair an open invitation to speak at CNC, and I reiterate it here. The process for developing and adopting the CNC agenda is an open one, and suggestions (from district chairs, DON, and anyone else) are always welcome, if these agendas in any sense need to better serve district needs. CNC's by-laws require it to meet at least ten times a year, but additional CNC meetings can be scheduled if there are topics that cannot be addressed adequately in our existing monthly meetings. Your thoughts and suggestions on any of the above are most welcome, to CNC Chair Chris Leman, (206) 322-5463, cleman@oo.net.

District Council staffing and information. CNC's July 29 budget letter to the Mayor and City Council recommended an increase in staffing for the neighborhood service centers and district coordinators (whose funding was cut some years ago and has not been substantially restored), but no increase is included in the Mayor's budget proposals that are now before the City council. All Department of Neighborhoods offices were closed on Thursday, Sept. 20 for an all-day retreat, when a departmental reorganization was announced. The CNC chair had requested, unsuccessfully, that the Department consult with the district councils and the CNC about the impending reorganization. The reorganization still leaves the Neighborhood Service Centers and the district coordinators under separate supervisors and separate budget categories, a situation which, along with the inadequate funding, hampers the district coordinators and reduces coordination of the various services and facilities by which the NSCs are supposed to aid their local area. Also the CNC chair has asked DON to encourage the district coordinators to consult

with their district councils about the content of the new "district profiles" of demographic and other information that DON has decided to put on the City web site. A DON "outreach guide" that provides contact information on district councils, local groups, media contacts, venues, etc. is currently intended to be available only on the City's internal web site, and thus would not be available to help district councils reach their publics and vice versa. Also, DON is providing few resources to help district councils establish and maintain their own web sites, and is doing much less than in the past to help organize neighborhood associations and chambers of commerce in areas where they do not exist. These are possible topics for district council and CNC discussion and dialogue with DON in coming months.

Parks Superintendent nomination. A guest speaker at the Oct. 29 CNC meeting will be Tim Gallagher, who the Mayor has nominated to be the new Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. He has also accepted our invitation to be there a half hour early at 6 p.m. (same location--West Precinct, 810 Virginia St.) for an informal reception, your chance to meet him personally. Please try to come early (5:45 would be great!) with a donated beverage or snack; we already have some donated plates, napkins, and cups. Gallagher is former director of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Dept. The City Council parks committee will have a public hearing on Gallagher's nomination on Tuesday, October 23 at 5:30 in Council Chambers, with the committee expected to vote on the nomination on Nov. 20, and a possible full City Council vote on Nov. 26. Tim Gallagher's resume can be viewed online on Councilmember Della's webpage, www.seattle.gov/council/della and public comment should be emailed directly to the councilmember at david.della@seattle.gov. Although Christopher Williams is still acting Supt., Gallagher is in town, has an office at the Park Dept. headquarters at 100 Dexter, is already doing some strategic planning, and can be reached at timothy.gallagher@seattle.gov or 684-8022. Suggestions may be sent in beforehand on topics he might address in his Oct. 29 CNC appearance; please send them both to Gallagher and to the CNC chair, cleman@oo.net. District Councils are also welcome and encouraged to invite him to speak.

Opening for Ethics and Elections Commission. Oct. 31 is the deadline to send a resume and a letter indicating interest in being appointed to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission. Send to wayne.barnett@seattle.gov or to Wayne Barnett, Executive Director, SEEC, POBox 94729, Seattle 98124-4729. For further information, Barnett's phone is (206) 684-8577.

The above material was prepared by Chris Leman, CNC Chair